



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director

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May 12, 2008

Christopher D. Koepfel
Administrator
Cultural Resources Section
Office of Environmental Services
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Federal Agency: Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA")

Re: Request for comments on the Hunt House in connection with the US 31 Improvement Project, I-465 to SR 38, in Hamilton County, Indiana (Des. No. 9905500; DHPA #3683)

Dear Mr. Koepfel:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f), 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the 2004 "Memorandum of Agreement . . . Regarding the US 31 Improvement Project in Hamilton County, Indiana, Designation #9905500," and the "Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the implementation of the Federal Aid Highway Program in the State of Indiana," the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer is responding to your request for our comments on the Hunt House.

As you know, Frank Hurdis, Karie Brudis, David Duvall, and John Carr of my staff participated in the April 22, 2008 walk-through of the Hunt House on the west side of US 31, a short distance south of 191st Street, on the north side of Westfield in Washington Township, Hamilton County (Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory #057-667-20025). Having for the first time seen the interior of the Hunt House, we no longer believe that the house is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The house retains the characteristic exterior detailing of a nineteenth century Romantic cottage, and its original massing is discernable from the successive additions made over time. However, its interior layout has been significantly altered, and such character-defining elements as door and window surrounds, fireplace configuration and mantle have been lost or altered. The result is the house no longer conveys the architectural qualities associated with its period of construction and is not an outstanding example of a Romantic revival cottage.

If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact John Carr at (317) 233-1949 or jcarr@dnr.IN.gov. In all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #3683.

Very truly yours,

James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:JLC:FDH:jlc

cc: Robert F. Tally, Jr., P.E., Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Division